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 FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO  
 TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2958  
 RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE 1536  
 INFO RUEHMR/AMCONSUL MADRAS PRIORITY 2590  
 RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 3176  
 RUMJDK/AMEMBASSY DHAKA 2676  
 RUMJHT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 2439  
 RUHQHQA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI  
 BT  
 C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 0290

CINCPAC FOR POLAD; DEPT ALSO FOR NEA/INS AND INR/NESA/SOA

E.O. 12356: DECL: 1/13/90  
 TAGS: PGOV, PINS, SOCI, CE  
 SUBJECT: (U) ALL-PARTY CONFERENCE MEETS WITH EXPANDED  
 PARTICIPATION 12 JANUARY

REF: (A) COLOMBO 267; (B) COLOMBO 283

1. (U) ALL-PARTY CONFERENCE (APC) ON COMMUNAL RECONCILIATION DRONE THROUGH ITS THIRD DAY ON 12 JANUARY WITH ALL INVITEES PARTICIPATING. NEW DELEGATIONS APPEARING AT TABLE FOR THE FIRST TIME ON THE 12TH WERE REPS FROM CHRISTIAN AND HINDU ORGANIZATIONS.

2. (U) DURING THE MORNING SESSION, CONFEREES WOUND UP THEIR PRELIMINARY PRESENTATIONS OF ITEMS/PROPOSALS TO BE INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA. WHEN THE APC RESUMED BRIEFLY IN THE AFTERNOON, THE CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT DISTRIBUTED TO ALL DELEGATIONS A DOCUMENT -- AS YET UNAVAILABLE OUTSIDE -- WHICH PRUPORTEDLY WRAPS UP ALL THE SUGGESTIONS, MADE BY PARTICIPANTS, OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED.

3. (U) PRESS WAS TOLD BY APC BRIEFER (AND GSL PARTICIPANT/MINISTER) LALIT ATHULATHMUDALI THAT THE AFTERNOON SESSION HAD BEEN ADJOURNED AFTER A HALF HOUR TO PERMIT PARTICIPANTS TIME TO STUDY THE DRAFT PAPER WHICH, HE AMPLIFIED, COULD SERVE AS AN AGENDA FOR FUTURE SESSIONS IF THE PARTICIPANTS AGREE. LALIT SAID HE "WOULD NOT SAY THAT THERE WAS AN IDENTITY OF VIEWS EXPRESSED AROUND THE TABLE" AT THE SESSIONS ON THE 12TH, BUT HE DID SAY THAT ALL PARTICIPANTS HAD EXPRESSED THEMSELVES AGAINST VIOLENCE. "THE PART THAT MAKES ME HOPEFUL," HE ADDED, "IS THAT THERE WAS REFERENCE TO HUMANITY AND HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATIONS."

4. (C) DURING BREAKFAST MEETING THIS MORNING WITH CODEL ADDABBO, PRESIDENT JAYEWARDENE EXPRESSED GUARDED "HOPE" THAT THE CONFERENCE WILL PRODUCE A CONSTRUCTIVE

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PAGE 002

NC 3102216

TOR: 131050Z JAN 84

TIVE RESULT BUT ACKNOWLEDGED, IN RESPONSE TO AMBAS-  
SADOR'S QUESTION, THAT "IT IS NOT EASY" KEEPING THE  
PARTICIPANTS "ON TRACK."

5. (U) ATHULATHMUDALI WAS ALSO ON SAME WAVELENGTH IN  
HIS POST-SESSION REMARKS ON THE 12TH, CAUTIONING  
AGAINST EXPECTING TOO MUCH FROM THIS ROUND OF  
MEETINGS AND SUGGESTING THAT APC PARTICIPANTS MIGHT  
NOT BE ABLE TO REACH "FINAL CONSENSUS" BY THE TIME  
THIS MARATHON ROUND OF ALL-PARTY TALKS CONCLUDED ON  
20 JANUARY. (COMMENT: FEW EXPECT THE PACE TO PICK  
UP UNTIL THE PARTICIPANTS HAVE TO FACE THE REALITY  
OF A CLOCK RUNNING DOWN NEXT WEEK ANYWAY. END  
COMMENT). ATHULATHMUDALI DECLINED TO SPECULATE ON  
WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THE CONFERENCE CONCLUDED ON THE  
20TH WITH NO RESULT. HE SUGGESTED, HOWEVER, THAT COM-  
MITTEES MAY BE FORMED TO SPEED UP THE WORK AND THAT  
THE PRESENCE OF HARRY JAYEWARDENE, THE PRESIDENT'S  
LAWYER/BROTHER AT THE MEETING, WAS BECAUSE IT "WOULD  
BE NECESSARY (FOR HIM) TO DRAFT LAWS UPON A CONCLU-  
SION BEING REACHED."

6. (U) ASKED ABOUT THE IMPACT ON THE APC OF THE  
KILLING OF TWO POLICE CONSTABLES IN THE NORTH (REF B).  
LALIT DENIED, AS A PERSONAL VIEW, THAT THERE WOULD BE  
ANY NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE CONFERENCE. RATHER, HE  
ARGUED THAT THE KILLINGS WOULD STRENGTHEN THE RESOLVE  
TO ENSURE A DURABLE ETHNIC PEACE.

REED

END OF MESSAGE

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